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ADMIRAL LORD NELSON.

Horatio Nelson, whose name must ever occupy one of the most honourable niches in the temple of Fame, was the son of the Rev. Edmond Nelson, rector of Burnham Thorpe, in the county of Norfolk, where he was born on the 29th September, 1758. His mother, whose maiden name was Suckling, was grandniece to Sir Robert Walpole, first Earl of Oxford, and he was named after his godfather, the first Lord Walpole. Upon his mother's death in 1767, her brother, Captain Maurice Suckling, a highly distinguished naval officer, promised to take care of one of her sons, and young Horatio having expressed a predilection for the sea, in the year 1770 repaired on board the *Reasonable* of 64 guns, then commanded by his uncle; and Captain Suckling being shortly afterwards removed to the *Triumph* of 74 guns, stationed as a guardship in the Thames, he accompanied him, and remained under his auspices (with the exception of a voyage to the West Indies on board a merchantman) until the following circumstances enabled him to embark on active service.

In the year 1773, the Honourable Captain Phipps, eldest son of Lord Mulgrave, was appointed to undertake a voyage to the north pole, to endeavour to ascertain the practicability of the north-west passage; and Nelson, although only in his fifteenth year, solicited to be employed. Captain Phipps took the command of the *Race Horse*, bomb vessel, and was accompanied by Captain Lutwidge in the *Carcass*; and in this last vessel young Nelson embarked as the captain's coxswain. They sailed from the Nore on the

4th June, and on the last day of the following July, they were suddenly surrounded in lat. 80° 21' by immense fields of ice, and remained in a situation truly perilous, until the 9th August, when a shift of wind caused the ice to separate, and they were carried into the open sea.

During this critical period, several circumstances occurred, which strongly marked the intrepid character of the future hero.

The object of the expedition being found unattainable, the ships returned to England, and Nelson was placed by his uncle on board the *Seahorse* of twenty guns, where he was soon rated as midshipman; and in this ship he traversed almost every part of the Indian Seas, from the head of the Persian Gulf, to the extremity of the Bay of Bengal: But after spending about eighteen months in India, the effects of the climate were such upon his constitution, as to deprive him for some time of the use of his limbs, and he was compelled to return to England.

His health being materially improved by the voyage home, he was soon after his return appointed acting lieutenant in the *Worcester* of 64 guns; and on the 8th April, 1777, passed examination for a lieutenancy; and on the following day, received his commission as second lieutenant of the *Lowestoffe* frigate, then fitting out for Jamaica, from which vessel he was removed to the *Bristol* of 50 guns. On the 8th December, 1778, he was appointed commander of the *Badger* brig; and on the 11th June, 1779, he was promoted to the rank of Post Captain, and received the command of the *Hinchinbrooke* of 28 guns, before he had attained his twenty-first year.



ADMIRAL LORD NELSON.

On the West India station Nelson distinguished himself on many occasions; and while here in 1787, in command of the *Boreas* frigate, he married Mrs. Nesbitt, who, although a widow, was only in her eighteenth year, whose hand he received from our present gracious sovereign, then Prince William Henry, who commanded the *Pegasus* frigate. The course of service of his frigate being expired, Nelson returned in that vessel to England in June, 1787; and his health being still very precarious, he withdrew to

the parsonage house of Burnham Thorpe, which his father gave up to him; where he continued in the enjoyment of domestic peace and rural occupations, until the commencement of hostilities with France, in 1793, again called for his services, and a field of enterprise was opened before him in some degree commensurate to his mighty genius.

It would be altogether impossible here to present even the most rapid recital of the numerous actions in which he bore a part from this date, till his death. Among the

many bright names which illuminate this part of the naval history of England, his shines the brightest of all.—Wherever the cannon thundered on the deep, it might be said there was Nelson. When early in 1793 he presented his claim for a pension, in consequence of the loss of his right arm in an attack on Teneriffe, he stated in his memorial, that he had been engaged against the enemy upwards of one hundred and twenty times. On occasion of receiving that wound, which would have proved fatal but for the filial affection of his son-in-law, Lieutenant Nesbitt, he came home to England: and Mr. Southey, who has related the story of his life with singular fascination, gives the following anecdote, in illustration of the popular feeling with which he was regarded by the public, alike honourable to all the parties concerned:—

"His sufferings from the lost limb were long and painful. He had scarcely any intermission of pain day or night for three months after his return to England. Lady Nelson, at his earnest request, attended the dressings of his arm, until she had acquired sufficient resolution and skill to dress it herself. One night, after a day of constant pain, Nelson retired early to bed, in hope of enjoying some respite by means of laudanum. He was at that time lodging in Bond-street, and the family was soon disturbed by a mob knocking loudly and violently at the door. The news of Duncan's victory had been made public, and the house was not illuminated. But when the mob were told that Admiral Nelson lay there in bed, badly wounded, the foremost of them made answer, 'You shall hear no more from us this night.' And, in fact, the feeling of respect and sympathy was communicated from one to the other with such effect, that, even under the confusion of such a night, the house was not molested again."

Nelson's greatest victories were those of the Nile, Copenhagen, and Trafalgar. The first was gained on the 1st of August, 1798, and effected the complete destruction of the enemy's force—all their ships, except two, being either captured or sunk. For this brilliant achievement he was elevated to the Peerage, by the title of Baron Nelson of the Nile.

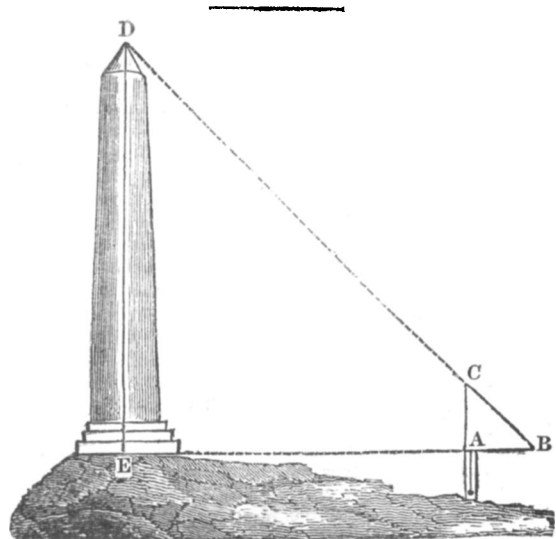
At the battle of Copenhagen, fought on the 1st of April, 1801, although acting in a subordinate station, yet the glorious results must be mainly attributed to him. Here he gave an evidence of his personal coolness and intrepidity in the midst of danger, that strongly marked his character, and deserves to be recorded. About one o'clock, Sir Hyde Parker perceiving that the enemy's fire was not slackened, began to despair of success, and thinking it his duty to save what he could of the fleet; made the signal for retreat; but Lord Nelson, who was at that moment in the heat of action on the quarter-deck, paid no attention to it. When informed by Captain Foley that the signal was made to leave off action—"You know, Foley," replied the hero, "I have only one eye—I have a right to be blind sometimes;" and then putting the glass to his blind eye, he exclaimed, "I really do not see the signal. Keep mine for closer battle flying!—Nail it to the mast!" and continued the action.

The battle of Trafalgar was fought on the 21st of October, 1805; and there this renowned captain fell, amidst the blaze of the most splendid triumph ever gained upon the seas.

The intelligence of this great victory, (which entirely crushed the combined naval power of France and Spain,) was received in England with mingled feelings of admiration and sorrow. His Majesty, in particular, was so affected when informed of the death of Lord Nelson, that he is said to have exclaimed, "We have lost more than we have gained!" The same feeling was manifested by persons of every description. None of those enthusiastic emotions generally produced by our great naval victories were observable on this occasion; and the prevailing wish seemed to be, to manifest their gratitude to the deceased hero by conferring on his relatives those honours and rewards which the nation would with rapture have bestowed on himself, if he had lived to enjoy his triumph. The dignities of a Viscount and Earl were conferred on his brother, the Rev. Edward Nelson, by the titles of Viscount Merton and Earl Nelson of Trafalgar. A pension of £6 000 a year was settled upon him; and £120,000 was

granted for the purchase of an estate, to support the dignity of a title so nobly acquired. To the widow of Lord Nelson £2,000 a year was granted; and £10,000 to each of his sisters. A public funeral was decreed, and a monument was ordered to be erected in St. Paul's Church; besides which, statues and other memorials of this illustrious man were voted by several of the principal cities in the British empire.

The funeral honours paid to Lord Nelson were at once calculated to gratify the eye and impress the heart. He was attended to the grave by the seven sons of his sovereign—the chief nobility and gentry of the empire—and a long train of heroes, many of them the companions of his danger and his glory. Never were honours more deserved. Never were the characters of the hero and the patriot more happily blended than in the person of Lord Nelson; and never were great talents exercised with more brilliant success, or directed to the attainment of more useful ends. In reference to Nelson's character as an officer, Mr. Southey says, "Never was any commander more beloved. He governed men by their reason and their affections. They knew that he was incapable of caprice or tyranny; and they obeyed him with alacrity and joy, because he possessed their confidence as well as their love. 'Our Nel,' they used to say, 'is as brave as a lion, and as gentle as a lamb.' Severe discipline he detested, though he had been bred in a severe school. He never inflicted corporal punishment if it were possible to avoid it; and when compelled to enforce it, he who was familiar with wounds and death suffered like a woman. In his whole life Nelson was never known to act unkindly towards an officer. If he was asked to prosecute one for ill-behaviour, he used to answer, 'That there was no occasion for him to ruin a poor devil, who was sufficiently his own enemy to ruin himself.' To his midshipmen he ever showed the most winning kindness—encouraging the diffident, tempering the hasty, counselling and befriending both." The same author adds—"He has left us, not indeed his mantle of inspiration, but a name and example which are at this hour inspiring hundreds of the youth of England: a name which is our pride, and an example which will continue to be our shield and our strength."



EASY METHOD OF MEASURING HEIGHTS.

The following very simple method which occurred to me for ascertaining the height of any (erect) inaccessible object, I have tried and found to answer very well; and should you deem it a fit subject for your very useful and widely circulated Journal, it is at your service.

Procure a piece of board of any convenient thickness, say half an inch, which make into a triangular form, as appears in the prefixed diagram, having the angle A a right angle, and each side subtending that angle equal, and from six to twelve inches in length; then along the side AC, which is called the perpendicular, attach or continue